

SOUTHWEST REGION HURRICANE RITA UPDATE OF OCTOBER 2, 2005 – 1300 HOURS

PERSONNEL STATUS:

Number of employees assigned to the team: 55 FWS – 1 USFS

Until further notice, Central Command briefings at 0845 and conference calls at 0900 will continue between the Regional Office, the Incident Command Team and those Field Stations that received direct impact from the Hurricane.

Employees must make requests for assistance through the Team who will then place the request to the Hurricane Rita Dispatch Desk for coordination. All personnel support, boats, vehicles, equipment and supplies are to be requested and assigned through the system.

A Critical Stress Debriefing unit has been ordered. Employees needing immediate assistance can call a counselor at 1-800-222-0364 24-hours a day. The Employees Assistance Program for this incident will be expanded to include assistance with insurance claims.

COSTS TO DATE: About \$15 million in damages

General Updates:

- Today USFWS tasked by FEMA to become part of the Joint Command Team
- Upper Texas Coast Refuges remain closed to the public
- Fuel shortages continue for equipment operation
- School enrollment progress continues
- All employees homes have been checked by LE
- Refuge patrols continue
- No motel rooms within 50 miles of Incident Command Post (ICP)

SOUTHWEST REGION T-3 COMMAND TEAM DAILY REPORT 10/02/05

PHONE LINES FOR ICP: 281-573-4513 or 4514

FAX WITH COVER SHEET TO: 281-573-1823

T-3 Incident Action Plan (IAP) for October 2, 2005 :

- Team preparing for up to 14 day extension
- Detailed expenditure tracking will continue and USFWS will work with USFS Incident Business Advisor in order to meet FEMA administrative requirements
- Completion of Refuge employee trailer project taking place
- Emergency stabilization needs of NWR's continues
- Repairs continue at NWR sites
- Crews will clear trails in Trinity NWR

October 1 Report

- No accidents to date
- 16 trailers (for displaced refuge employees and families) have been received and set up on pads at a park on Hwy 565 near Cove, TX. 15 are operational and ready for occupancy. One trailer needs repair work.
- Law enforcement agents continue to assist the Chambers and Jefferson County Sheriff departments and provide security for area shelters, refuges and team projects
- Heavy vehicle traffic continues as evacuees return home to Gulf Coast communities

McFaddin NWR and Port Arthur, TX

Accomplishments:

- Maintenance crew continues to assess and conduct repairs
- Sheet rock removed from check station (water damaged and molding)
- Generator power point/disconnect installation completed at McFaddin (fire cache, storage shed, check station and headquarters)
- Rafters on lean-to storage shed framed and roofed
- Fans and two dehumidifiers set up to dry out visitor center
- Further assessed damages at Clam Lake Bridge

Updated damage assessment:

- Clam Lake Road wood plank bridge has irreparable structural damage
- 30'x 80' building with no power. Wall skin separated from frame and damaged wiring and conduit
- Fuel island can not be powered through building

Texas Point NWR

Accomplishments:

- Tree limbs removed from entrance

Updated damage assessment:

- Still too saturated and soft to put trucks into needed work areas

Trinity River NWR

Accomplishments:

- Cleared 3½ miles of handicap hunter trails

Updated damage assessment:

- Still too saturated and soft to put trucks into some needed work areas
- Crews will continue to restore trail access 10/2

Anahuac NWR and Anahuac, TX:

- Anahuac office hoping for power by end of the week

Accomplishments:

- Saw crews and heavy equipment moved from McFaddin to Anahuac
- Maintenance crew continues to assess and conduct repairs

Updated damage assessment:

- Salt water barrier (West Line Road) concrete pipes are plugged and erosion around headwall

Law Enforcement Emergency Assistance (summary report to-date):

- More detailed updates to 10/01 LE summary report will be forthcoming
- Curfew violations
- Vehicle assists
- Overall pretty quiet

END OF REPORT

INFORMATION ACCESS:

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS COUNSELORS CAN BE REACHED 24-HOURS AT:

1-800- 222-0364

INTERNET:

Anyone seeking information on Hurricane Rita may do so via these Service links:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/> <http://www.fws.gov/>

R-2 HURRICANE RITA EMERGENCY INFORMATION/DISPATCH DESK:

Employees can reach the Southwest Region's Command Center's Hurricane Rita Emergency Information Desk by e-mail or text messaging at: hurricanerita@fws.gov

TELEPHONE:

The Emergency Information and resources Dispatch Desk will remain staffed at the Regional Office from 0600 to 1800 until further notice. The Desk is serving as a centralized communications base for all affected staff and offices.

***HURRICANE RITA EMERGENCY INFORMATION DESK
PHONE NUMBER: 505-248-6508 FAX: 505-248-6475**

Employees may check for pre-recorded information on the Region's 24-Hour Emergency Phone Line at:

***24-Hour Employee Emergency Hotline: 505-248-6543**

NOTE: Any media inquiries may be coordinated by External Affairs: 505-248-6911

Daily updates will be completed by COB each day and press releases issued as necessary.

END OF REPORT